

Color Transparency C-1

Early Civilizations in the Americas

1. They developed in the Americas. They built great cities. They created complex societies with governments and religions. They made art and engineering advances.
2. Students' responses will vary, but should demonstrate an understanding of the effect of the chosen accomplishment, and should include logical support for each choice.

	Years	Location	Accomplishments	Demise
Maya	Between A.D. 300 and A.D. 900	Mexico and Central America	Cities with pyramids, temples, ball courts, and palaces Arts System of government Written language Calendar, study of astronomy	Cause remains unknown. Possibly disease or overpopulation
Aztec	Around A.D. 900 through the 1400s	Mexico	Capital city of Tenochtitlán, one of the world's largest cities Stone roadways Platform farming Rich religious life Conquests throughout Mexico	Overtaken by enemies, they were defeated when they lacked allies due to resentment over harsh treatment
Inca	Around A.D. 1100 through 1535	South America	Capital city of Cuzco linked by a great network of roads Stone buildings Engineering advances such as embankments, bridges, and canals Woven and metal artworks Conquests throughout South America	Conquered by the Spanish

Questions:

1. What characteristics did these civilizations have in common?
2. Which accomplishment do you think was the most significant for each civilization? Explain your answer.